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REMARKS

This amendment and response is being submitted on January 20, 2004. A response to paper No. 9, mailed January 12, 2004 is due on April 12, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Applicants respectfully request the amendment and response submitted herewith be made of record in the present application.

Claim Status

Claims 1-38 were originally filed in this application. Claim 37 has been cancelled. No new matter is added by these amendments, and entry is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-36 and 38.

CLAIM REJECTIONS*35 U.S.C. §102*

Claim 37 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Misawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,336,569) or Singh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,389,456). In response, Applicants have cancelled claim 37. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome, and withdrawal is requested.

Conclusion

Having overcome all rejections, Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. If a telephone conversation will

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expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

All fees believed due have been submitted. If Applicant is wrong in this assumption, the PTO is authorized to charge any deficiency to Applicant's account number 120690. The PTO is not authorized to charge the issue fee to this account.

Respectfully Submitted,

C R Nold 1/20/2004

Charles R. Nold
Reg. No. 46,470

Ernest Orlando Lawrence Berkeley
National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road
MS 90B0104
Berkeley, CA 94720
Telephone No. 510 486-6503